

**\* ATSDR Record of Activity****received**  
**3 JUN 91**UID #: i a c 2Date: 06/03/91Time: 9:10

amX pm

Site Name: Elizabeth Coal Gas City: Elizabeth Cnty: Union State: NJCERCLIS #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Recovery #: 3#NJ Region: 3Site Status (1) NPL ☒ Non-NPL RCRA Non-Site specific Federal  
(2) Emergency Response Remedial Other**Activities**

|   |                       |  |                      |
|---|-----------------------|--|----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incoming Call | <u>Public Meeting</u> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Consult | <u>Site Visit</u>    |
| <u>Outgoing Call</u>                              | <u>Other Meeting</u>  | <u>Health Referral</u>                             | <u>Info Provided</u> |
| <u>Conference Call</u>                            | <u>Data Review</u>    | <u>Written Response</u>                            | <u>Training</u>      |
| <u>Incoming Mail</u>                              |                       | <u>Other</u>                                       |                      |

Requestor and Affiliation: (2) Ed MaKarowitz, EPA Region 3Phone: FTS 340-6933

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contacts and Affiliation**(2) Ed Makarowitz ( ) \_\_\_\_\_(1) Lisa Voyce ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

|                |                    |              |                     |                     |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1=ATSDR        | 2=EPA              | 3=Other Fed  | 4=State Health      | 5=State Environment |
| 6=Local Health | 7=Elected Official | 8=Private Co | 9=Private Citizen   |                     |
| 10=News Media  | 11=Citizen Group   | 12=USCG      | 13=Natl Respns Cntr | 14=Other            |

**Program Areas**

|   |                          |                           |                    |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Health Assessment</u>                                | <u>Health Studies</u>    | <u>Tox Info-profile</u>   | <u>Worker Hlth</u> |
| <u>Petition Assessment</u>                              | <u>Health Surveillnc</u> | <u>Tox Info-Nonprofil</u> | <u>Admin</u>       |
| <u>Emergency Response</u>                               | <u>Disease Registry</u>  | <u>Subst-Spec Resch</u>   | <u>Other</u>       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Consultation | <u>Exposr Registry</u>   | <u>Health Education</u>   |                    |

**Narrative Summary:** For background on this site and previous ATSDR comments, refer to the Date Feb. 21, and May 17, 1991 Health Consultation. EPA ask ATSDR to further clarify whether occasionally playing ball on property adjacent to the PAH contaminated area or whether children using the area as a short cut to school would pose any health concerns.

ATSDR recommended restricting access to the contaminated area to restrict excessive trespassing. However, since the area is vegetated; whether a child or adult venture into the contaminated area to retrieve a ball and/or child use it as a short-cut to school would not pose a human health threat. Nevertheless, permanent remediation of the site would be in order for long term use of the site.

**Action Required/Recommendations/Info Provided:** Maintain vegetated cover and restrict use of the contaminated area until permanent measures are implemented.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 6/3/91

cc: A. Susten  
Ed Skowronski  
L. Voyce  
H. Emmitt  
file

*\*This memo voided by Cate memo  
of 06/04/91 @ 0800 hrs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Page 3 - Lisa Voyce

for long periods of time may also develop cancer. Direct contact with the PAHs may also result in skin and eye irritation. Levels of PAHs in at least one area of the site are at levels that could be of public health concern. However, frequency of contact will determine potential for adverse health effects to occur.

Based on experimental evidence in animals and observations in humans exposed to cyanide, the cyanide level of 2.2 ppm in surface soil found in one discrete sample is not likely to pose a human health concern. A child would have to ingest several hundred grams of soil containing cyanide at this level in the course of 1 day before any acute health effects would be expected to occur. Typical estimates of daily soil ingestion by children ranges from 0.01 to 10 grams to include pica behavior. Chronic ingestion of the soil containing cyanide at the levels detected would not be expected to lead to adverse health effects.

Current understanding of the contribution of lead in soil to the total body burden in children suggests that the maximum lead levels detected in the soil samples at this site would not be expected to lead to adverse health effects in children, particularly if this is the only source for lead exposure. If, however, children are being exposed to levels of lead through other sources, such as through drinking water or lead-based paints, chronic exposure to lead concentrations on-site could further contribute to a total body burden of lead.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the reviewed information, ATSDR concludes that the levels of PAHs detected in areas near the pooled water could pose a health threat to young children who play in these areas. Since data are not available on concentrations of contaminants in the pooled water or related sediments, ATSDR cannot comment on the possible health threats, if any, posed by ingestion or direct contact with them.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Restrict access to area of elevated concentrations of PAHs and the pooled water.
2. Initiate steps to limit migration of contaminants to recreational areas.
3. Continue to monitor soil levels if recommendation 2 is deferred.

| OFFICE | SURNAME | DATE | OFFICE | SURNAME | DATE | OFFICE | SURNAME | DATE |
|--------|---------|------|--------|---------|------|--------|---------|------|
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FILE

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# Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

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Comments: